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Downgraded To: SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

EO 12852 X005

Authorized By: H. D. I

August 4, 1975

SECRET EYES ONLY

May 3, 1962

CATEGORY "A"

Sensitive Designator

Removed AUG 25 1972

1st PW

(S/S)

UNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE
TWENTY-NINTH MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
Athens, Greece, May 4-6, 1962

FILE RS/R

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: May 3, 1962
Time: 1 pm 3:35 pm
Place: Ambassador's Residence

Participants:

United States
Secretary Rusk
Mr. Kohler

Germany
Foreign Minister Schroeder
Mr. Carstens

Subject: Berlin and Germany

Copies to: S/S - 1
S/B - 2
S/P-Mr. Rostow - 3
G - Mr. Johnson - 4
EUR-Mr. Kohler - 5
GER-Mr. Hillenbrand - 6
INR/D-2-Mr. Hilsman - 7 + 8
DOD - Mr. McNamara - 9

Ambassador Bonn-Amb. Dowling - 10
Ambassador Paris-Amb. Gavin - 11
US Mission Berlin-Mr. Lightner - 12
C. J. C. - 13

The pre-lunch conversation opened with a thorough discussion of the leaks of the US proposals to the Soviets in Bonn. Views were exchanged along well-known lines and it was agreed that while there were possible theories as to the source and motivation of the leaks, nothing could be definitely established and the question should be regarded as closed.

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The Secretary then reviewed in broad terms his discussions with Gromyko and Molotov. He said he thought that there was some misunderstanding with respect to the broad questions included in the US Draft Principles paper. He pointed out that there had been no real discussion of these broader questions with the Russians. The Secretary had rather emphasized the question of vital interests and indicated that if agreement could be reached on these, then these broader questions could easily fall into place. The idea of setting up a continuing forum of Deputy Foreign Ministers was really calculated to give the Soviets a way out -- a cover under which they could if they wished drop their proposals or at least allow them to fade away.

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The Secretary then continued to say that it was absolutely fundamental to the US position that there would be no Berlin or German arrangement without the Federal Government's concurrence. It was conceivable that the European countries could reach some kind of settlement without the United States but it was not conceivable that the United States could reach a settlement without the Europeans.

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The meeting

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The meeting then adjourned to the salon. At the Secretary's request Mr. Kohler gave the Foreign Minister a rundown on Dr. Erentano's talks with the President and with himself. Some discussion then ensued as to the press treatment of German attitudes.

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At the close of the discussion it was agreed that both sides would say to the press something along the following lines: The Secretary of State and the German Foreign Minister had met for a full review of the discussions with the Russians and would continue their discussions with the British and French Foreign Ministers this evening. These discussions would of course be reported to NATO. There was no doubt that further discussions between the US and the USSR would be on a basis of agreed positions which started from the well known and vital interests of the West in West Berlin.

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